

REPORT

On State of Religion and Fraternal Correspondence.

Dear Brethren, Our beloved Association has passed through the trials and labors of another year; and now, in annual session for 1888, as we look over the past, we see no cause for discouragement, but quite the opposite. God has greatly blessed the labors of his people, and given prosperity and peace to the churches composing our body, taken as a whole. All the churches of the Association have had preaching during the year, and general peace has prevailed. Nearly all report some baptisms, while some have had precious revivals. All the churches but one have represented themselves in this session of the body. One new church has been added to the body. Our reception by the brethren at Rock Branch was cordial, and our support abundantly liberal. The weather has been very fine, and the congregations supposed to be larger than that at any previous session of our body. Great harmony has prevailed during this session, and much praise is due the Great Head of the church for his abundant mercy.

In reviewing the past labors and history of our dear old Association, we see abundant reason to thank God for the past and the present, and to take courage for the future. Much has been done, and much remains to be done, if we meet the obligations, and sustain the cause of Christ committed to our hands. The times that are upon us require soundness, intelligence, and energy—yea, watchfulness. Your committee is impressed with

the fact that our pastors should be careful to indoctrinate the people of their charge, giving them line upon line, precept upon precept, that they may know the truth. The membership of our churches also have great need to study the grand system of truth revealed to us in the Scriptures, that they may be sound in the faith, and able to judge between the natural and the spiritual—the human and the divine—that they may judge between the true churches of Christ and the human societies claiming to be churches. Our membership is rapidly increasing, and many of those added to the churches are quite young, and if not indoctrinated, may bring trouble. Many seem to know but little difference between our faith and practice, and that of the other orders in the country; and hence often lend their influence and support to these unscriptural orders. The remedy for this is soundness in the faith, clear views of the kingdom and truth of God. Can it be less harm to fellowship error among others than among ourselves? Can we be clear of sin if we give our influence to advance false doctrine among ourselves or others? “He that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.” In God’s word we find but one church instituted by Jesus Christ, its only Head and law-giver; and that one to continue in its original form to the end of time; we find no authority there for the admission of infants or unconverted persons into the church by baptism, no authority for the practice of sprinkling or pouring as baptism, no admission to the Lord’s table of any but those who upon a profession of their faith have been buried with Christ in baptism. No authority there for changing or setting aside any of the laws or ordinances of Christ by popes, bishops, or priests, or any power on earth. We find also that the church of Christ was organized under the broad banner of the commission to preach this blessed gospel to every

creature. The world was the field, and they were zealous in mission work, for they went everywhere preaching the word. Baptists are the only people who hold and teach these New Testament doctrines in their original form and purity. Hence our claim to be the only true churches of Christ. Whenever we cease to maintain these principles, or any one of them, then we cease to be the true churches of Christ. Let us, as a people, hold fast to the truth, the whole truth, just as God has revealed it. Let us steadfastly resist every form of error, and at the same time, "Mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them." Rom. 16:17.

N. L. CLARKE,
J. M. MOORE,
T. I. WELLS, •
JAS. BRYANT,
L. P. MURRELL,
J. D. HARDY,
L. HARRALSON,
E. W. SUMRALL,

PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

ROCK BRANCH CHURCH, Newton Co., Miss., Sept. 15, '88.

Mt. Pisgah Association convened to-day in annual meeting for 1888, with Rock Branch Church, Newton Co., Miss., this being the the 51st session of her body. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder T. I. Wells from 2 Tim. 1:9. Theme; The calling and salvation of God's people the result of his gracious purpose and arrangement in Christ from eternity, which secures their final redemption.

After intermission and refreshments, the Moderator called the house to order. The service was opened with song. Prayer by Elder S. J. Tullos.

Brethren Thos. Keith, L. M. Philips and T. L. Moore, were appointed to read letters.

Letters were read from forty-seven churches, and the delegates seated.

Brethren T. C. Viverett, N. T. Johnson and D. S. Homes, were appointed a committee on Finance.

During the business in the house Elder L. B. Fancher preached at the stand.

The Association was organized by re-electing all its former officers viz: Elder N. L. Clarke as Moderator, G. M. Moore, Secretary and J. D. Hardy, Treasurer.

Petitionary letters were then called for. One presented from Center Ridge, Newton county, which being read, the church was admitted a member of this body, and the delegates welcomed and seated.

Pastor and Deacons of Rock Branch Church, with F. Sansing, J. P. Pace, Cicero Johnston, and N. Barham, were

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appointed a committee on Preaching.

Correspondence from sister Associations was called for. Brethren J. M. McAlister and W. F. Vance presented themselves and were received from the Oktibeha Association; also, Elder J. B. Gambrell was received as a messenger from the State Convention.

Committees Appointed as follows:

On Missions; Elder A. J. Freeman, H. O. White, E. N. Robinson, W. P. Vaughn, J. M. Kelly, S. J. Tullos.

On Nominations; D. T. Chapman, J. D. Hardy, J. R. Pace, J. E. Graham, J. W. Horn.

On Education; G. W. Rainer, Thos. Keith, J. H. Samsing, W. J. Bruner, J. H. Houston.

On Publication; J. W. Arnold, E. H. Garner, J. T. Gordy, T. L. Hamilton, T. L. Moore.

On Queries and Requests; L. P. Murrell, T. W. Gully, J. M. Moore, Joseph White, J. M. Hutson.

On the State of Religion and Fraternal correspondence; Elder N. L. Clarke, J. M. Moore, T. J. Wells, Jas. Bryant, J. D. Hardy, L. Harralson, E. W. Sumrall, L. P. Murrell.

On Sunday Schools; J. E. Chapman, L. M. Phillips, Wm. Bassett, T. L. Moore, J. M. Kelly.

On Temperance; Elder J. J. Ingram, N. T. Johnson, T. C. Viverett.

By motion it was,

Resolved, That a public collection for missions be taken up at the close of the forenoon service to-morrow.

The Committee on Preaching report: That Elder A. J. Freeman is appointed to preach at the church to-night. Elder G. W. Rainer at Union, and Elder J. J. Ingram Mt. Hebron. Also, on to-morrow at 11 a. m. Eld. N. L. Clarke is to preach the Annual Sermon on Missions, and Eld. J. B. Gambrell at 2 o'clock p. m.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Monday morning.

Lord's Day Services.

Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock, conducted by Bro. Hailey.

At 11 o'clock Elder N. L. Clarke occupied the stand, using as text 1st Cor 15: 58. Theme:—The Christian's duties, privileges and obligations. The congregation, though unusually large, was very orderly and attentive. The sermon, delivered in much tenderness, was sound, edifying and instructive. It was one of our dear old brother's best efforts. At the close of the service the hats were passed round for a collection receiving for Domestic Missions \$11.85: Foreign Missions \$18.50: Indian Missions \$14.00.

Afternoon Services.

After intermission and refreshments, at 2 o'clock, Elder J. B. Gambrell took the stand, reading as text 1st Peter 3: 21 giving an able exposition of the text; proving that salvation is not obtained by baptism, but by the great facts which baptism represents, viz: The death, the burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The discourse was delivered in great tenderness and love, the speaker holding the attention of the large concourse, and both he and his audience alternately shedding tears of joy. Altogether the day's services were abundantly edifying to the children of God, the truth faithfully and tenderly preached, and surely much good was done that day in the name of Jesus. Seldom, if ever, has it been our privilege to attend such a meeting of this body.

SECOND DAY—MONDAY, MORNING, 9 o'clock.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator.

Prayer by Bro. H. Bruce.

Called the roll, and read the rules of Decorum.

Proceed to appoint correspondence to sister Associations.

To the Octibbeha.—J. J. Ingram, S. J. Tullos.

To the Salem.—Lemuel Harralson, J. H. Byrant.

Bethlehem.—G. W. Rainer, T. I. Wells.

Mt. Olive.—Lee M. Philips.

Harmony.—T. J. Hamilton, A. W. W. Grafton.

So the State Convention.—N. L. Clarke, A. J. Freeman.

Resolved: That the corresponding Messengers be authorized to write their own letters, certifying their appointment, signing the names of the Moderator and Clerk of this Association.

Reports of Committees.

On Nominations.—Report read and adopted. Appendix A.

On Missions.—Report read. Instructive speeches were made by brethren A. J. Freeman and J. B. Gambrell, when the report was returned to the committee for amendment.

Elder J. E. Chapman retired to preach at the Stand.

On Queries and Requests.—Report read and adopted. Appendix C.

On Sunday Schools.—Report read and after speeches by brethren L. M. Philips, W. C. Thornton, J. W. Arnold and others, it was adopted.—Appendix D.

The committee on Missions returned, read the report as amended, and while further talks were being made in behalf of the work of the General Association, a voluntary half dollar contribution was suggested and headed by bro. A. W. W. Grafton, and in a few minutes \$15.70 was contributed, and turned over to the Treasurer of the General Association. The report was then adopted.—Appendix B.

Adjourned for refreshments.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Moderator called the house to order, and called for the report of the committee.

On Finance.—Report read and adopted.—Appendix E.

On Temperance.—The report was read. Earnest and effective speeches were made by Elders G. W. Rainer, A. J. Freeman, J. B. Gambrell and others. A motion was made requesting the entire congregation to vote on

the report, and it was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.—Appendix F.

Elder L. P. Murrell preaches at the Stand.

On Publications.—Report read: Elder J. B. Gambrell, editor of the Southern Baptist Record, in a pleasant speech, pleads for a more cordial support of the paper, when the report was adopted.—Appendix G.

On the State of Religion and Fraternal Correspondence.—Report read and adopted. (See first page.)

On Education.—Report read and adopted.—Appendix H.

Correspondents to the General Association appointed: vis: Brethren N. L. Clarke, A. G. Freeman, G. W. Rainier, W. C. Thornton, L. M. Phillips, D. T. Chapman, T. I. Wells, Thos. Keith, J. M. Moore, J. R. Pace, N. T. Johnston, T. H. Stamper, H. O. White, W. P. Vaughn, J. L. Hardy, J. W. Arnold.

Resolutions.

1. *Resolved*.—That the Clerk be authorized to have the minutes printed at the office of the Southern Baptist Record, distributing them to the churches, and that he receive \$20.00 for his services, drawing on the Treasurer for the same.

2. *Resolved*.—That any funds remaining in the hands of the Treasurer of this body after current expenses have been met, and all funds in his hands belonging to the General Association, be handed over to the Treasurer of that body.

3. *Resolved*.—That we most heartily tender the thanks of this body to Rock Branch Church, and the surrounding community for the very liberal support extended us during this session.

4. *Resolved*.—That we now adjourn to meet at Pleasant Hill Church, Newton County, Miss., on Saturday before the third Lord's day in September, 1889. While singing one of the songs of Zion, the parting hand was taken amid many tears. Closing prayer by Elder J. M. Kelly.

N. L. Clarke, Moderator.
J. M. Moore, Secretary.

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APPENDICES.

(A.) Your Committee on Nominations report that Elder J. W. Arnold, preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Elder S. J. Tullos his alternate; also, that Eld. A. J. Freeman preach the next Annual Sermon on Missions and Elder J. M. Moore his alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

D. T. CHAPMAN,

Chairman.

Report of Committee on Missions.

(B.) Your committee, believing that a summary of the mission work in the various fields of labor would be of interest to our people, make the following report:

In 1880, a Mission was begun in Mexico; now, there are eight churches with 500 members 210 were baptized last year.

The Cuban mission was begun about three years ago; now there are six churches with over 1,000 members. Brother Diaz writes, that over 8,000 have applied for baptism, but give no evidence of regeneration.

The mission to Brazil has prospered, churches have been organized. The membership numbers 210. Forty-nine were baptized last year.

The mission in Italy began ten years ago. Now we have thirteen churches and 360 members. Forty were baptized last year.

The African mission, re-organized by Elder W. J. David in 1875, has now five stations. Thirteen were baptized last year. Total number of members, 149.

The China mission has long been established, and has a membership of 727, Baptized last year 40.

These missions are all under the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the review of our own home field, we find that the Mt. Pisgah Association, organized fifty years ago, seeing the destitution within her bounds, sent forth men to preach, by whose labors her territory was gradually filled with churches, and now the whole field is occupied.

As the work enlarged the General Association was formed, and through that body, work was extended into southern part of the State, until now, the whole country has been dotted with churches.

About six years ago, a mission was established among the Choctaw Indians. God blessed the work, and now there are six churches with about 300 members, four ordained ministers, and five licentiates, about twenty baptized this year.

The Baptist State Convention has pressed on in the work of evangelizing their part of the State, until they have well nigh occupied the territory. Last year they had more than fifty missionaries in the field, and over 800 members were added to the churches through their labors.

Northern Baptists have for years, done a great work among the Negroes of the South. On their own home field, and in foreign fields; they have been wonderfully blessed among the Burmans and in the Congo Valley, where many thousands have been converted.

Viewing the facts set forth, we should feel very thankful to God, for the work that has been done. We should not relax, but increase our labors, and enlarge our contributions. Behold, the fields are white for the harvest. They call upon us to send them Christian teachers. Let us go up and possess the land for our blessed Master, who said, "Go, teach all nations; lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

The General Association has five men in the field; two, in South Mississippi, and three, among the Choctaws. We have promised to help them to live while they preach. Let us fulfill our promise.

Resolved, That we heartily approve of the work of the General Association both among the white people and among the Choctaws.

Resolved further, That we, as delegates from our churches, will present the claims of the General Association before our churches at our next meeting, and raise what we can for that work, and convey it to the coming session of that body.

Resolved further, That D. T. Chapman, T. C. Vivrette, N. L. Clarke, T. I. Wells, J. M. Moore and A. J. Free-

man be authorized to receive, and carry up to the General Association, any funds that may be handed to them by churches, or brethren that may represent themselves in that body.

Report of Committee on Queries and Requests.

(C.) Your committee makes the following report :

We find no query, but four churches request the next meeting of the Mt. Pisgah Association, viz; Sylvarena, Bethel, Pleasant Hill and Pinkney. We recommend that the body hold her next meeting with Pleasant Hill church.

Respectfully submitted,

L. P. MURRELL,

Chairman.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

(D.) Your Committee report that year after year, this body has received and adopted reports, recommending that Sabbath Schools be organized in all our churches. and yet very few churches have kept up regular Sabbath Schools, and still fewer where the Pastor, Deacons and older members, unite in energetic, systematic Sabbath School work. Brethren, "these things ought not so to be." Not the *hearers* of the law are just before God, but the *doers* of the law shall be justified. Therefore, we recommend that this Association urge both Pastors and churches to engage at once, in earnest, faithful Sabbath School work, and that we no longer leave the training of our children in the truths of the Word, to the inexperienced, but engage earnestly in this work, praying for the blessing of God upon our labors. Brethren, come up to the help of the Lord, against the mighty power of unbelief and error and ignorance.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. CHAPMAN,

Chairman.

Report of Committees on Finances.

(E.) Your Committee on Finance have examined the Treasurer's report, and find it correct. The churches have sent up the following amounts:

For Associational purposes.....	\$121 10
" Domestic Missions.....	11 35
" Foreign ".....	13 30
" Indian ".....	8 80
Total	\$149 55
Collected on Lord's Day for Domestic Missions.....	11 85
" " " Foreign.....	18 50
" " " Indian.....	14 00
Total	193 90

Respectfully submitted,

T. C. VIVERETT, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Temperance.

(Appendix F.) Your Committee on Temperance respectfully submit, That in view of the fact that this body, at her last session placed herself clearly on record as being firmly opposed to the liquor traffic, and in favor of prohibition, there remains little to be said except to indorse and to encourage a ceaseless warfare against the matchless evil," and continue in the good work until we build up a public sentiment, that will itself suppress the use of ardent spirits. Believing as we do that on legislation however stringent will effectually and permanently place the cause of temperance on a firm and durable basis, unless it be backed by a healthy public sentiment. "Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babblings? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine, Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Prov. 23:29-32.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. INGRAM,
N. T. JOHNSTON,
T. C. VIVERETTE,

Report of Committee on Publication,

(Appendix G.) Your committee believe the printing press to be a power for good, or evil, and as Baptists we have to be careful in the selection of literature for our families to read; for the country is flooded with vicious and profane literature, which will, most assuredly, corrupt the morals of those who read it. As we profess to be Christians and members of Christ's true church, we should see that no religious literature finds its way into our homes except that which advocates sound doctrine. As such we recommend the Southern Baptist Record, published at Meridian Miss., by the able Editor, J. B. Gambrell. Also the Foreign Mission Journal published at Richmond Va., For Sunday-Schools we recommend "Kind Words" published at Atlanta Ga., We think it would be a great help to the paper and to the cause, for brethren to contribute to the paper short articles.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. ARNOLD,

Chairman.

Report of Committee on Education

Your Committee on Education believe that the subject of education is of such vast importance, that we hardly know how to proceed to write a report, as there has been so much written, that we can scarcely present anything new; yet we feel it to be the duty of parents to educate their children, to use the facilities that are offered them by the Free School system, and to supplement that as much as they can. For if we do not give them the advantage of at least a common school education, the sad result will be that they will be servants to those who have higher education: Since these are facts, and since we live in an age of progress, improvement and developement, we should prepare the minds of the youth for usefulness. Education does this.

There is nothing that we can give our children that will better enable them to fight life's battles than a good education, which can be obtained at the High schools of the country. To those seeking still higher ducation, and wishing to prepare for the ministry, we

recommend Mississippi College located at Clinton, Hinds county Miss.

Respectfully submitted,
G. W. RAINER, Chairman.

Ordained Ministers and their Post-Offices.

N. L. Clarke, Decatur.	J. J. Ingram, Dixon.
L. P. Murrell, Lake.	S. J. Tullos, "
D. Fore, "	J. M. Moore, Union.
G. W. Rainer, Hickory.	J. M. Kelly, "
P. Vaughn, Chunkey Sta.	J. W. Arnold, "
W. P. Vaughn, "	T. L. Moore, "
J. E. Chapman, Newton.	J. K. P. Shows, "
A. J. Freeman, "	T. I. Wells, Moore's Mill.
L. M. Philips, Harperville.	B. W. Dearing, Newton.
H. O. White, Moore's Mill.	A. G. Blackwell, Sylvaena.
A. A. Powell, "	A. J. Cockroft, Lena.

Licentiates and their Post Offices.

F. Sansing, Union.	E. W. Breland, Dixon.
T. M. Gould, Lake.	R. L. Herrington, "
J. E. Pearson, Lena.	Jos. White, Decatur.
Wm. Sessums, "	J. L. Hammond, Decatur.
W. G. Everett, Hickory.	W. K. Haily, Hickory.
J. M. Hutson, Harperville.	H. Bruce, Decatur.
D. C. Payne, Union.	E. H. Garner, Lucerne.
E. W. Sumrall, Lake.	C. C. Arnold, Sebastapol.
J. J. Barrett, Lucerne.	T. J. R. Harwell, Lucerne.

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ABSTRACT OF FAITH.—Preamble.

We, the Church of Jesus Christ, who have been regularly bapized upon the profession of our faith, and convince of the utility of a combination of churches, and of maintaining a correspondence for the preserving of union amongst churches of the same faith, from ourselves into an Association upon the following principles, viz.

I. We believe in one triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

II. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are the only rule of faith and practice.

III. We believe in the fall of Adam from his original rectitude; in the imputation of all his sins to all his posterity, in total depravity of human nature, and in mans inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

IV. We believe that God hath loved his people with an everlasting love, that he chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world; that he calleth them with a holy and effectual calling, and being justified alone through the righteousness of Christ, imputed to them, they are kept by the power of God, through faith into salvation.

V. We believe there is one Mediator between God and man—the man Christ Jesus, who, by the satisfaction he made to law and justice in becoming an offering for sin, hath, by his most precious blood become the end of the law for the righteousness to every one that believeth.

VI. We believe that the gospel is God's appointed means of calling sinners to the knowledge of the truth—that he has commanded it to be preached to every creature, and requirs all men to report, believe and obey.

VII. We believe that the gospel is made effectual by the operation of the Holly Spirit, and that the sinner, in order to be saved, must be born again.

VIII. We believe that good works are the fruits of the faith and follow after the justification, and are evi-

dences of a gracious state and all believers are bound to obey every command of God from a principle of love.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, a general judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

GOSPEL ORDER.

1. We believe that a Gospel Church is a congregation of believers, who have been immersed upon a credible profession of faith, by a proper administrator, who have given themselves to the Lord, and to one another in brotherly covenant to keep up a godly discipline, agreeably to the rules of the New Testament.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Head and Law-giver of His church; that the government is with the body, the church, and is equally the right and privilege of each member thereof.

3. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are Gospel ordinances appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the church until his second coming.

4. We believe that immersion only in baptism, and that believers in Christ are the only proper subjects.

5. We believe that none but regularly baptized church members have a right to partake of the Lord's Support.

6. We believe that it is the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to the ordinances of the gospel and give themselves, as members, to the visible church.

7. We believe it to be the duty of every church to expel from her communion every member that is immoral in conduct, or that holds doctrine contrary to the scriptures.

Amendment to Gospel Order, by Wayne Sutton.

8. This Association will not fellowship with any church which permits her members to sign "whiskey petitions" for the purpose of granting a "license" to retail sinous and spiritous liquors, but will expel all such churches, being guilty of gross and immoral conduct.

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